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29 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: National Capital Planning Commission

1. On 23 November 1955, an article appeared in the Washington Post in which the Mayor of Alexandria spoke of CIA's selection of the Langley site as violating a comprehensive plan for the National Capital "accepted by the Congress".
2. At the direction of Mr. Houston, I checked the Congressional Record for January 1949 in order to determine whether or not the statement "accepted by Congress" was justified. The plan referred to would appear to be the one proposed by the NCPC in 1950. Prior to checking the Congressional Record, I telephoned Mr. William Cheatham of the Commission, who stated that, to the best of his knowledge, there had been no acceptance of the plan by Congress.
3. The results of my search in the Congressional Record were negative. However, one interesting comment in the Record may be of interest in the future. At 98 CR 7365, Mr. McMillan (S.C.), speaking re HR 7502, 82d Cong., 2d Session (which later became the National Capital Planning Act of 1952) in the course of remarks which he said were taken from "the report on the bill", stated as follows in reference to the change of the Commission's name from National Capital Park and Planning Commission to National Capital Planning Commission:

"Further, the use of the word "Park" in the present name of the Commission is misleading as to the Commission's duties. Its authority to acquire land for park and playground purposes is only one of the Commission's various functions. Its planning functions are now more important. The Commission has no connection with the operation and maintenance of parks . . . Both the Act [the 1924 Act] and the bill [HR 7502] in substance authorize the Commission to prepare, develop and maintain or amend a comprehensive plan for the development of the National Capital and its environs."

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Kennedy
Assistant General Counsel

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